Planet Ranch
Proposed Habitat Creation

SUMMARY OF ACREAGES

	Backwater (ac)	Cottonwood-Willow (ac)	Marsh (ac)
Area #1: Ponds/Riparian	40	65	0
Area #2: Riparian	0	100	0
Area #3: Active River Channel	0	150	50
Downstream Protection	0	396	0
Total	40	711	50

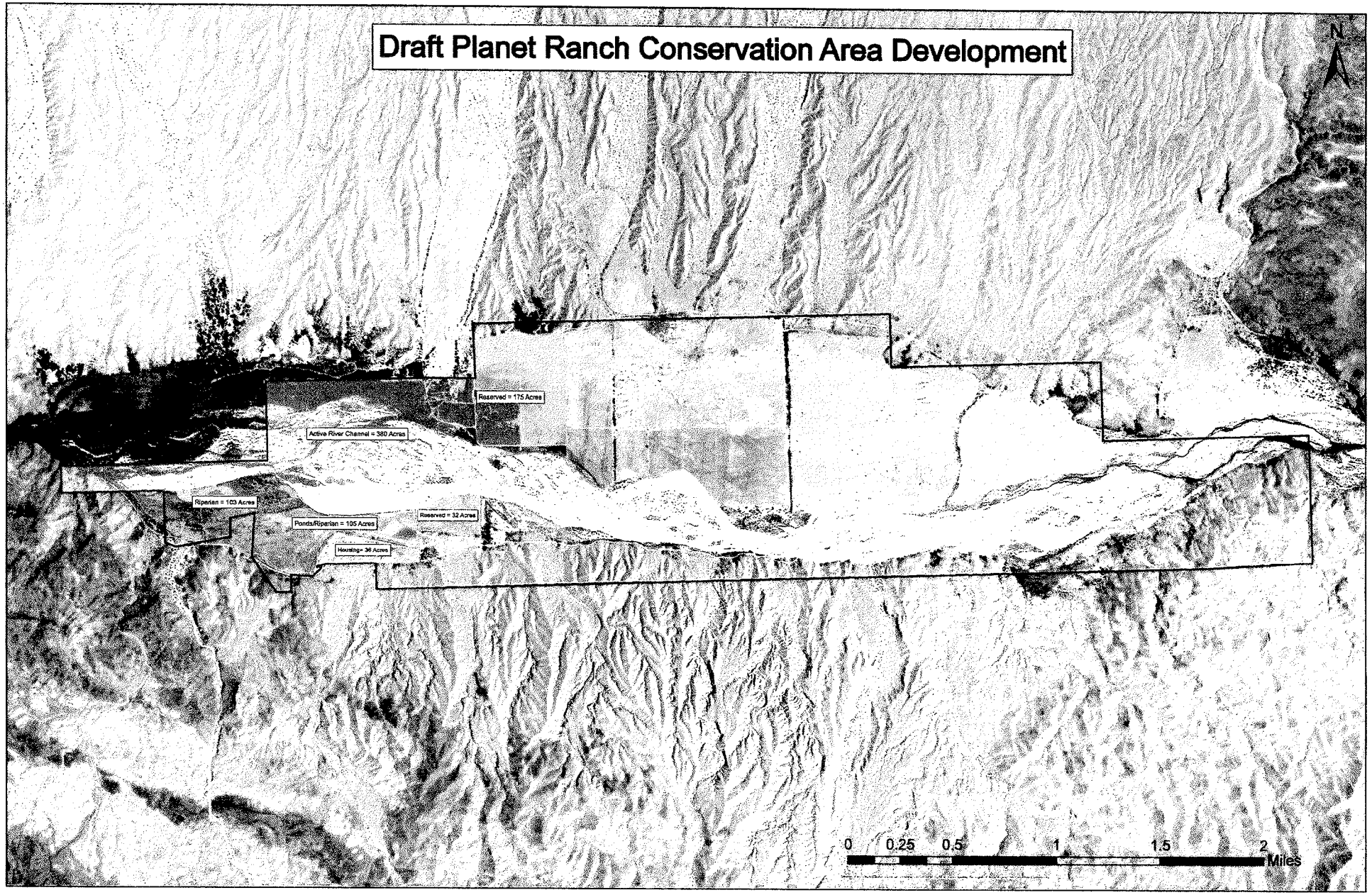
There are four distinct areas on in the western portion of the ranch where groundwater tables are relatively high and existing riparian habitat exists plus the center section of the Bill Williams River National Wildlife Refuge which would be afforded some level of protection and would therefore be eligible for credit.

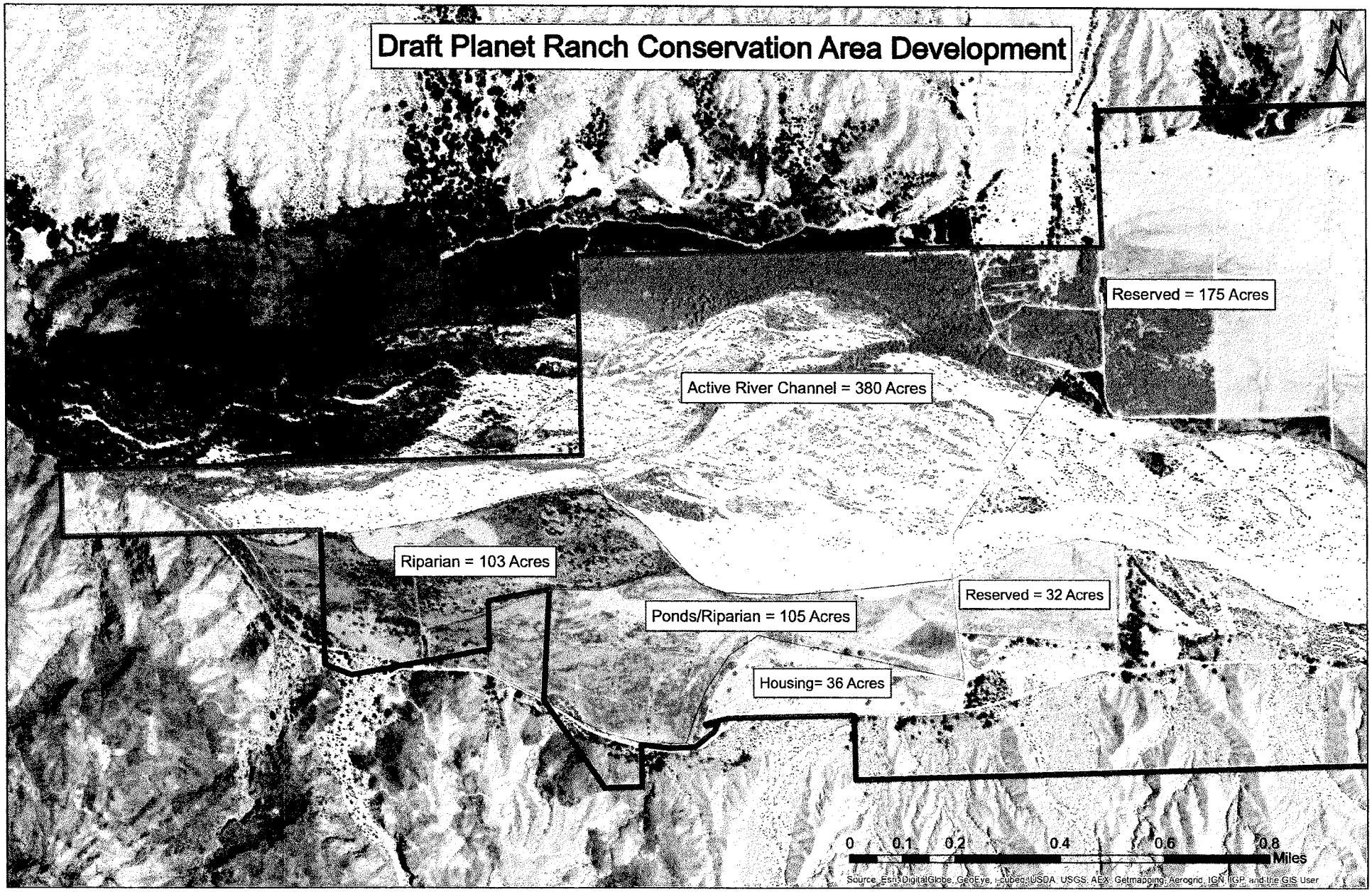
Area #1: Ponds/Riparian. The focus of area #1 is the development and management of ponds dedicated to native fish integrated with sparse riparian and uplands plantings. Disconnected ponds would allow the multiple use of pumped groundwater. First to provide a flow-through source of predator (non-native fish) free water and secondly to irrigate and/or create moist soil conditions in both the managed riparian area and active river channel. The target size of the isolated ponds is 40-60 acres, however space is limited within the 105 acre pond/riparian area. The balance, 45-65 acres would be classified as riparian.

Area #2: Riparian. This riparian area would be planted and irrigated using a combination of flow-through from the ponds as well as directly irrigation from groundwater wells. The 100 acre area is expected to be classified as cottonwood-willow.

Area #3: Active River Channel. This active river channel contains established cottonwood-willow and marsh that would exist on groundwater. These established areas are expected to increase and decrease in concert with releases on the Bill Williams River from Alamo Dam. The active river channel area is approximately 380 acres in size and contains approximately 150 acres of cottonwood-willow and 50 acres of marsh although these acreages have not been field verified.

Area #4: Reserved parcels. Two parcels of land have been reserved for future restoration if adequate water is available and if the acreage is needed for the Program. A 32 acres parcel has been set aside for a small pond, possible 20 acres in size with sparsely planted upland species. A larger 175 acre parcel could be used for additional riparian planting although the depth to water exceeds the typically rooting depth of cottonwoods and would therefore require continued irrigation for survival. These acreages were not included in the summary table shown above.


Draft Planet Ranch Conservation Area Development
N
Reserved = 175 Acres
Active River Channel = 380 Acres
Riparian = 103 Acres
Ponds/Riparian = 105 Acres
Reserved = 32 Acres
Housing= 36 Acres
0
0.25
0.5
1
1.5
2
Miles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0.2
0.4
0.6
0.8
Miles
Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, i-cubed, USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, and the GIS User

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LC-8000
ENV-7.00

Mr. Larry Voyles
Director
Arizona Game and Fish Department
500 West Carefree Highway
Phoenix, AZ 85086-5000

Subject: Management Responsibilities for Planet Ranch - Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program (LCR MSCP)

Dear Mr. Voyles:

During our August 13, 2014, conference call, the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD) and the Bureau of Reclamation LCR MSCP Office discussed the drafting of a Land Use Agreement to outline future management responsibilities for the Planet Ranch property if the potential acquisition is completed and Planet Ranch is acquired for LCR MSCP purposes. During the conversation, AGFD and Reclamation came to agreement in principle on several items to incorporate in a Land Use Agreement, including:

- All water rights associated with the Planet Ranch acquisition will be used by Reclamation for LCR MSCP purposes.
- Habitat creation for LCR MSCP purposes will be limited to an area located west of the main access road that bisects the property except for two parcels reserved for potential LCR MSCP use if needed and water is available (see enclosed map). These areas are collectively noted as "LCR MSCP Planet Ranch Habitat".
- Areas included in the LCR MSCP Planet Ranch Habitat will be managed for LCR MSCP covered species.
- Areas not included in the LCR MSCP Planet Ranch Habitat will be managed for AGFD priorities as long as the priorities are compatible with LCR MSCP purposes.
- Reclamation and AGFD will consult on compatible uses of the entire property.
- Access into areas included in the LCR MSCP Planet Ranch Habitat will be restricted to uses compatible with LCR MSCP purposes, including restricting motorized vehicle use and restricted fishing, hunting and trapping opportunities. Public access into lands managed for LCR MSCP covered species will be from a single designated parking area adjacent to resident housing.
- Public access will be allowed on the entire Planet Ranch property with the above restrictions.

- Public vehicular access is expected on the main access road and other roads not in areas included in the LCR MSCP Planet Ranch Habitat as determined by AGFD after consultation with Reclamation.
- Reclamation is committed to stabilizing lands to the east of the main access road in coordination with AGFD.
- Reclamation will enter into an agreement to compensate AGFD for costs associated with managing the LCR MSCP habitat created by Reclamation. AGFD is solely responsible for costs incurred for any non-LCR MSCP activities.
- Reclamation will not provide Federal funds for payment in lieu of taxes, including compensation for any voluntary contributions made by AGFD to any entity.

The LCR MSCP Steering Committee is anticipating a vote on the Planet Ranch acquisition at its October 22, 2014, Steering Committee meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada. If the Steering Committee approves the acquisition, development of a Land Use Agreement will be a priority for Reclamation. We will keep AGFD informed of the process and will schedule a meeting to review a draft Land Use Agreement as applicable.

We look forward to working with AGFD on this important project. If you have questions, please contact me at 702-293-8555 or Mr. Terry Murphy at 702 293-8140.

Sincerely,

John Swett
Program Manager
Lower Colorado River
Multi-Species Conservation Program

Enclosure

cc: Mr. Pat Barber
Region IV Supervisor
Arizona Game and Fish Department
9140 East 28th Street
Yuma, AZ 85365

Mr. James F. Odenkirk
Assistant Attorney General
Office of the Attorney General
1275 West Washington Street
Phoenix, AZ 85007
(w/encl)

bc: LC-1000, LC-1100, LC-1200, LC-8060, LC-8400, NAO-1000
(w/encl)